



May 2016

Rules for Big Bald Access from Wolf Laurel (Big Bald Road)

Access to Big Bald summit via a licensed motorized vehicle is available to Wolf Laurel property owners and their guests. In order to maintain this unique privilege, visitors to Big Bald summit must observe the following rules.

I. Access

- Licensed motorized vehicles with **four-wheel drive** may access Big Bald seasonally from May 15th thru November 1st depending on current and expected weather conditions. ATV, UTV, and motorcycles, are strictly prohibited.
- Access to Big Bald is through National Forest Land on a designated road. All motorized traffic must travel the designated road or be subject to violations.
- Keys will be issued to property owners only; guests must be with a property owner to access the summit by motorized vehicle.
- Access to the Big Bald summit lies within the Appalachian National Scenic Trail corridor. To maintain the integrity of the Appalachian Trail, no more than two (2) licensed motorized vehicles with a maximum of six (6) persons per vehicle may occupy the summit up to 4 hours. The limit of stay being a maximum of 4 hours will be documented at the security gate when keys are returned. Access is not allowed between dusk and dawn.
- The staff of Roads and Securities is responsible to determine if the weather conditions will allow the road to be used. If it is raining or has rained recently, vehicles will not be allowed on the road until it has dried.

II. Gate Keys

- There will be three (3) keys maintained at the security gate. Two (2) will be for the use of property owners and one (1) will be maintained for exclusive use of the Forest Service and Emergency personnel. Keys are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. A key may not be reserved.
- To obtain a key, a property owner must check in at the security gate to complete an application, which will include name, residence address, vehicle type, and license number. The property owner must leave his/her driver's license with security gate personnel until the gate key is returned.
- Gate must be locked after entrance and exit.

III. Conduct on Big Bald

Please observe "Leave No Trace" guidelines which include, among other things:

- Visit in small groups.
- Stay on designated road and do not park, picnic, or impede foot travel on the Appalachian Trail.
- "Pack it in, pack it out."
- Everything that you take in must be taken back out with you.
- Remove all trash and food waste.
- Pets must be leashed and under owner control at all times. All pet waste must be removed from the area and is the responsibility of the owner.
- Treat our natural heritage with respect. Leave plants, rocks, and historical artifacts undisturbed.

IV. Damage on Big Bald

- If you find damage to the Big Bald area, please report it to the security gate personnel upon your return.
- Any known damage/cleanup costs attributable to an owner after a visit will be billed to such property owner.
- Any incidence of rules violation will result in property owner's and guest privilege being revoked for the remainder of the season.
- Roving security will monitor the parking area at the Big Bald gate several times during each shift.
- No owner may exceed the maximum vehicle or visitor limit described above without the appropriate authorization by the U.S. Forest Service. To request authorization for a group activity or obtain a U.S Forest Service special-use permit, please contact the Appalachian Ranger District at 828-689-9694. Unauthorized group activities in the Big Bald summit area will be subject to violations.

No camping!

No fires of any kind!

**Big Bald Key Agreement
For
Wolf Laurel Property Owners**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Mountain Address _____

Vehicle: _____ **License #:** _____

Valid Driver's License: Place in key envelope _____

Check out Time: _____ **Time of Return:** _____ **Date:** _____

I, _____ understand that I will be billed for any damage/cleanup costs attributable to me or my guests and that I will lose the privilege of vehicle access to Big Bald for the remainder of the season. I further understand that should the key be lost I will pay for a replacement lock and keys. The vehicle I will be driving on the Big Bald access is a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Signature: _____